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March 11, 2013

Via Messenger Service

Sharon Abendschan
U.S. EPA Region 8
1595 Wynkoop St.
Denver, CO 80202-1129

Re: *Response to Requests for Information Pursuant to CERCLA Section 104(e);
Gilt Edge Mine Site, Lawrence County, South Dakota.*

Dear Ms. Abendschan:

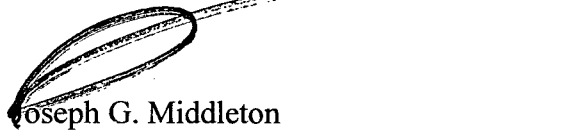
In response to the United States Environmental Protection Agency's ("EPA") February 7, 2013 Request for Information pursuant to Section 104(e) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9604(e) (the "Request"), for the Gilt Edge Mine Site in Lawrence County, South Dakota (the "Site"), CoCa Mines, Inc. ("CoCa"), Hecla Limited and Hecla Mining Company are producing tax returns for CoCa and/or Hecla Mining Company, as requested by EPA. In accordance with my March 5, 2013 telephone conversation with Andrea Madigan and Heidi Hoffman, of the United States Department of Justice, CoCa, Hecla Limited and Hecla Mining Company will provide their written responses to EPA's specific questions, as well as additional responsive documents, on March 25, 2013.

These documents do not constitute an admission by CoCa, Hecla Limited or Hecla Mining Company of liability with respect to the Site, nor any admission or representation concerning the conditions on or surrounding the Site, or any acts or omissions of any persons concerning the Site. The production of these documents does not constitute an admission by CoCa, Hecla Limited or Hecla Mining Company that the contents of the documents provided are true, correct, or accurate, nor does it constitute an admission that the documents are authentic for the purposes of admissibility in any judicial or administrative proceeding. CoCa, Hecla Limited and Hecla Mining Company each deny that any of them has any liability relating to any releases or threatened releases at the Site.

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As in the past, all tax returns are being produced on a confidential basis and should be treated as confidential business information. Please contact me with any questions regarding the enclosed documents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line that extends to the right.

Joseph G. Middleton

JGM/gg

cc: Heidi Hoffman, U.S.D.O.J. (via Messenger Service)